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LOBELIA SPICATA
PALE-SPIKED LOBELIA

Pale-spiked Lobelia is a perennial with unbranched stems that are 20-80 cm high. The oblong, lance-shaped stem leaves are 5-10 cm long and 0.4-2 cm wide, have toothed margins and short petioles, and become smaller up the stem. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely short-hairy. Flowers are 7-12 mm long and are born on short, 2-5 mm long stalks in a sparingly branched, narrow, crowded inflorescence. Each flower has 5 narrow sepals that are 5-9 mm long and a light blue, tubular, 4-10 mm long corolla that flares into a spreading 2-lobed upper lip and a 3-lobed lower lip. The ovary is below the base of the corolla and matures into a nearly globose capsule that is 3-5 mm high. Flowering in late July - early August.

LOBELIA KALMII has linear stem leaves 0.3 cm or less wide, and is confined to saturated soils. Most other species of Campanulaceae with similar flowers are annuals.